

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA

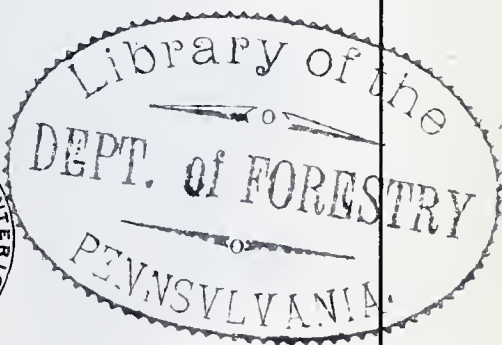
HON. CHARLES STEWART, Minister;      W. W. CORY, Deputy Minister

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FORESTRY BRANCH

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# RED PINE



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## RED PINE

***Pinus resinosa***

*Common names:* Red pine, Norway pine, yellow pine, Canadian red pine (England).

*French names:* Pin rouge, pin resineux, pin de Norvège.

The name "Norway pine," by which the red pine is so widely known, is an unfortunate choice for this tree, since it has no real significance. The tree is not a native of Norway nor of any country outside of the United States and Canada. Its Canadian range extends from Nova Scotia to lake Winnipeg. It is confined to the region lying south of a line running approximately from lake Winnipeg through lakes Nipigon, Abitibi, and St. John to the mouth of the St. Lawrence river. This is practically the same area as that occupied by the white pine.

### PRESENT STAND AND ANNUAL CONSUMPTION

The total uncut stand of red pine of saw-timber size probably amounts to 4,000,000,000 feet board measure, the greater part of this being in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. This tree has never been so abundant as the white pine, but it nevertheless is a tree of considerable commercial importance. The average annual cut forms about three per cent of the total saw material produced in Canada, and amounts to about 95,000,000 feet board measure.

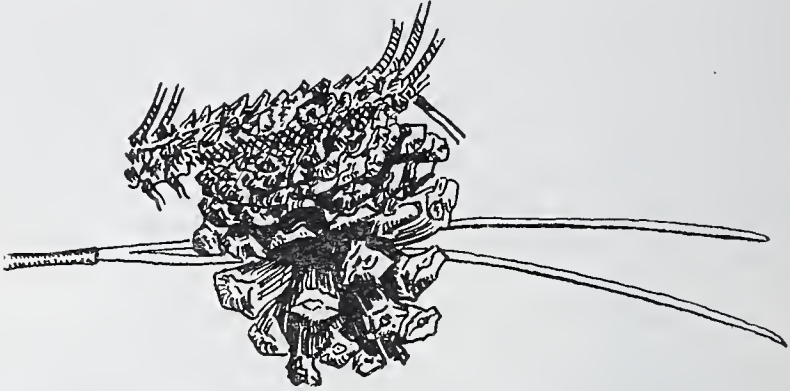
### THE WOOD: QUALITIES AND USES

In colour the heartwood of the red pine is light red, the sapwood yellow or often almost white. The wood is generally darker and more resinous than that of the white pine. The softer grades, however, can scarcely be distinguished from it. Red pine is frequently mixed with white pine and the better grades of jack pine, to be sold simply as "northern pine." The better grades of red pine serve for many uses to which the white pine is put. It is soft, light, tough, moderately strong, straight-grained, and easy to work. Much red pine, however, is used for heavy construction work, and it is a very good material for masts, spars, and decks of boats. It is probably the best Eastern Canadian wood for paving blocks and the construction of water-tanks.

### HABIT AND CHARACTERISTICS

The tree reaches a height of from 75 to 100 feet and upwards, with a diameter of 2 to 3 feet. The trunk is erect and has very little taper. When growing in dense stands it is clear of branches for over three-quarters of its length. On young open-grown trees the branches

are low, stout, and horizontal, and form a broad-based conical crown. The crown in older trees is more or less irregular in appearance. The twigs are stout as compared with those of other pines within its range and of a reddish colour. The foliage forms long dense dark-green tufts at the ends of the twigs, which gives the crown an open appearance as compared with that of the white pine.



FOLIAGE AND CONE OF RED PINE. NATURAL SIZE.

The needle-like leaves are from 5 to 7 inches long and occur in bundles of two. They enable one to distinguish the red pine without great difficulty, since the only other pine with two needles in a bundle occurring within its range is the jack pine. The leaves of that tree, however are very much shorter, being usually from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The white pine and the pitch pine, both of which are also to be found within the range of the red pine, have, respectively, 5 and 3 needles in a bundle.

The bark of the red pine is decidedly reddish-brown in colour and is separated into broad irregular flaky scales. The contrast with the greyish and finer-scaled bark of the other pines is very striking, and it is therefore not necessary to have a long acquaintance with this tree to pick it out at a glance. The bark, which is moderately thick, resists fire fairly well and it is this feature which has probably prevented many areas from being entirely denuded of seed-trees of this valuable species.

The roots are wide-spread and deep. The tree is therefore remarkably wind-firm.

The cones are 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and more or less spherical when dry and open. The scales are thickened at the tip and have no prickles. The white pine has a very much longer cone, while

the cones of the jack pine are usually curved at the tip and when attached to the tree usually point in the general direction of the twig. In the pitch-pine cone the tip of the scale is usually armed with a stout prickle.

#### PLANTING FOR USE AND ORNAMENT

The red pine is one of our most beautiful trees for ornamental planting. Given proper space to develop it is attractive at all ages. Its great masses of long, dark-green, closely bunched needles contrast strikingly with the reddish colour of the bark on its straight ragged trunk. It is a splendid tree for drives, borders, and lawns of large grounds.

The tree is not exacting as to its soil requirements and it will make satisfactory growth on soils which are too dry, sandy, or gravelly for the best development of the white pine. In this respect it occupies a position about midway between the white and jack pines. It does not appear to endure drought to the same extent as jack pine.

It is probable that the red pine will occupy a prominent place in Canadian forests when these are under intensive forest management and at a time when the people of Canada will have to depend upon trees which are satisfactory lumber producers on poor, non-agricultural soils. The tree not only makes good growth on poorer soils but it is comparatively free of insect and fungous injury, points which must be taken into consideration when planning the forests for the future.

The Ontario Government has had very satisfactory results in the use of the species for forest planting and is growing the tree in its nurseries to a considerable extent for this purpose. One of the chief hindrances to the more general planting of the tree has been the difficulty of securing an adequate supply of seed. Red pine bears cones abundantly only at infrequent intervals and as a rule the yield of seed per bushel of cones is comparatively small.

Natural stands of red pine reproduce themselves readily where the conditions are favourable. For the best reproduction the parent stand must not be sufficiently open to permit the seedlings to be dried out by hot winds and yet must not be too dense to cause the young growth to suffer from the shade. However, it is against fire that young red pine most need to be protected. If every person entering the woods does his part to lessen the fire danger the greatest step towards ensuring a constant supply of this valuable wood will have been taken.

